Special Issue

PD-L1, A Master Regulator of Immunity

Message from the Guest Editors

Receptor programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) is a co-inhibitory receptor that is mainly expressed on activated T cells. Through binding with its ligand, programmed death ligand-1 (PD-L1), PD-1 regulates the activity of T cells. As such, adaptive immune responses mediated by T cells against invading pathogens are strictly regulated, thereby avoiding collateral damage to the host. This regulatory circuit is however abused in several diseases such as chronic infection and cancer to dampen immune responses prematurely. Blocking the PD-1:PD-L1 immune checkpoint axis has therefore garnered substantial interest. In cancer, PD-1:PD-L1 blockade has resulted in unprecedented successes in individual patients across a variety of cancer types. However, a large cohort of patients fails to respond to PD-1:PD-L1 blockade. Insights into different mechanisms underlying this therapy failure are gradually gained. These highlight the complexity of the immune system and cancer as a disease. They further shed light on how combination with other therapies could enhance the response rates to PD-1:PD-L1 blockade.

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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